

Proposed S.B. No. 502 AN ACT CONCERNING BICYCLE SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

The "Bike Bill"

Dear Legislators,

My name is Lyndsey Broderick. I have been a Stamford, Connecticut resident for two years. I have a dog and enjoy walking around town on a daily basis. I am fortunate enough to live near the downtown area, so some days when the weather is either very nice or too dangerous to drive, I leave my car at home and walk to work, the grocery store, and to restaurants. I can't say my letter isn't out of self-interest - it is for these reasons that I believe the Bike Bill is essential.

When bicycles are not safe to ride on the roads, they use the sidewalks, which is a dangerous nuisance for pedestrians and can cause accidents when a bicycle and a pedestrian round a corner and collide head-on. It's also extremely inefficient, as pedestrians have to dodge bicycles and step out of the way on crowded streets to let them pass.

Bicycles are an excellent mode of transportation - it is faster than walking, and therefore a more efficient way to travel longer distances. It can allow a person who lives in the suburbs to get to work downtown in half the time it would take to walk.

Bicycles are inexpensive and easy to maintain, so they are available to all classes of people, including lower income individuals who cannot afford to live downtown and walk to work like me. When the roads are unsafe for bicycles, it affects these lower income individuals first. They are forced to compromise their safety in order to go about their daily lives in ways that those of us who have cars are not able to fully comprehend. They have to instead walk, try to find a ride with someone else, or take the bus, all of which can be unreliable and costly.

Adding bike lanes and clarifying the laws regarding motor vehicles' behavior towards bicycles will help to keep Stamford safe for everyone to enjoy. It will allow accessibility to the city by all people, which is important to keep stores employed and open, keep customers coming in, and encourage all residents to fully enjoy the parks and recreational activities that their hard-earned tax money has paid for.

If all of these reasons were not enough, bicycling is also an excellent hobby. It is a great aerobic activity, keeping residents in good shape and getting them out of their houses to experience the great outdoors. Being outdoors is a proven way to live your spirits, and exercising releases endorphins which tell your mind that you are happy and energetic. In short, bicycling makes people feel better. When residents are more active and happier, they live fuller lives, are better contributors to society, and are less likely to participate in criminal activities.

Please support the Bike Bill to protect cyclists and encourage the residents in your towns and cities to get out there and get active. Connecticut is a beautiful place and we can all enjoy it together if we support this bill.

Thank you for your time,

Lyndsey Broderick

102 Woodside Green, Apt 2A
Stamford, CT 06905